

of which are also feathered; toes and claws very strong. Entire upper parts brownish black; plumage of the back and neck behind white at base; rump and upper tail coverts with concealed large spots of white; quills brownish black on their outer surface, with a few transverse bands of a darker shade of the same color, and with a large space on their inner webs white; under surface of quills white, with about three transverse bands of black. Entire under parts white; flanks, under tail coverts and tibial plumes externally with large spots of brownish black; tail on its upper surface dark ash-brown, with about five wide transverse bands of brownish black, and narrowly tipped with white, on its under surface ash-white, with a few transverse bands of black. Under wing coverts white, with large spots of black; tarsi white; cere and toes yellow; bill dark bluish brown. Axillary feathers brownish black, the black spots on the under wing coverts unitedly form a large space of that color on the under surface of the wing. Total length about 22 inches; wing 14; tail  $9\frac{1}{2}$ ; tarsus  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ; bill, from corner of mouth direct to tip of upper mandible,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*Hab.*—Ogobai River, a tributary of the Camma River, Western Africa.

Spec. in Acad. Mus., from Mr. DuChaillu's collection.

Two specimens of this Hawk-Eagle are in the collection from the Camma River, above mentioned, and appear to represent a species hitherto unknown, probably generically different from any other of Western Africa. Though, in my opinion, properly to be included in the group *Limnaetus*, this bird is more strongly organized than either *L. niveus*, *cirrhatus*, *Kienerii*, or other of the Asiatic species that have come under my notice, and more decidedly *aquiline* in some points of character. The *tarsi* are very thick and densely covered, much more so than in either of the species just mentioned, and quite as much so as in the larger *Aquila*, or as in the Owls of the genus *Bubo*. The bill also is strong and fully curved. No crest is apparent in either specimen, though there is, perhaps, a slight elongation of the occipital feathers.

#### 5. OTUS STYGIUS, (Wagler.)

*Nyctalops stygius*, Wagl., Isis, 1832, p. 1221.

Archives du Mus., Paris, 1844, pl. 24.

Several specimens of this little known species have been received at the Smithsonian Institution in the valuable collections presented by Mr. Sartorius, and obtained by him at Mirador, near Vera Cruz, Mexico. All of them correspond with the descriptions of both Wagler and Pucheran, though darker than the figure given by the latter, as above cited.

#### On a new CORMORANT from the Farallone Islands, California.

BY J. G. COOPER, M. D.

GRACULUS BAIRDII, Gruber, MSS. *The White-patch Cormorant.*

? *Graculus leuconotus*, Audubon.

*Specific Characters.*—Male in spring. Head and neck changeable violet and purple with green reflections; body dark green. Back and wings greenish purple, the quills brownish towards their ends and beneath. Flanks with a large white patch on each side about equal in size to the bird's foot, mostly concealed by the wings when folded. Tail like the wings. Head with a crest of narrow loose feathers about an inch long, arising on the middle of vertex above the eyes; another similar crest arising just behind the occiput, rather longer. Bill very slender, subquadangular, strongly and abruptly hooked. Length 27 inches; extent 40.00, wing 10.75; tail 7, bill along ridge 1.90, along gape 3.00, its height and width at base each about 0.50 inch; tarsus 1.50; outer toe and claw 3.76; inner do. 1.30; second and third quills about equal, longest; half an inch longer than secondaries and an inch

1865.]

longer than tertiaries. Iris green, bill horn-black; feet pure black. Gular sac black, with red marks (shrinking and looking dull red when dry). A narrow patch of skin around eye, extending as far back as that around angle of mouth and gular sac. A sharp angle covered with feathers extends on middle line of throat, a little further forward than eyes. Forehead feathered down to bill, leaving only a narrow loreal space bare.

This species is closely related to the *G. violaceus* of the Oregon and Washington coasts, and replaces it as on the coast of upper and lower California. According to Mr. James Hepburn, it differs in a much more slender bill and other points of structure, as well as in the presence of the conspicuous white patches on the flanks.

In 1834 Mr. J. K. Townsend saw "at Cape Disappointment ten Cormorants, one with a white tail, the others with a white rump," which, without further description, Mr. Audubon called *Phalacrocorax leucurus* and *P. leuconotus*. It is quite possible that Townsend might have referred to *P. bairdii*, in his notes as above quoted, but as neither attribute applies to the present species the names would be inadmissible, even if accompanied by a diagnosis. I myself saw what I believed to be this species at the mouth of the Columbia River, in July, 1854, but could not obtain specimens. Mr. F. Gruber, of this city, was the first to secure specimens of the species and distribute them as *P. bairdii*, (named after Prof. S. F. Baird, of the Smithsonian Institution) and informs me that the species was published under that name in Germany, although I have not been able to find it, and think it is possible that it may still be a manuscript communication. It is with great pleasure that I append the following note on this species:

*Note on Graculus Bairdii, the White-patched Cormorant of the Farrallone Islands, California, by JAMES HEPBURN, San Francisco.*

(From a letter addressed to the Smithsonian Institution, dated Dec. 30th, 1862.

"While at Barclay Sound, I noticed that there appeared to be a Cormorant there about the size of the one from the Farallones—but without any white spot. I could only get one of them, and that on the last day I was out. On examining it, I found that it was of the same size as the other, but it had an orange gular pouch, as described by Audubon, whereas the other, as I have already insisted, has a dusky pouch, with numerous bright red papillæ, much too striking a point to be overlooked by any one who sees the bird while in the flesh. Another difference is that the irides of the former are brown, those of the latter sea-green. The plumage too is dissimilar in color, though both of them might fairly be called violet green. In the Farallones' bird, however, the green greatly predominates, in the other the violet. With respect to the white spot, I have seen the bird with it as early as February, and as late as the middle of July, at which time it showed no signs of disappearing, though the *G. dulophus* had months previously lost its crests. I have never been able to see the bird in autumn, which I am very anxious to do. If, as I think, it then appears with the white patch, the question of its being the breeding plumage is disposed of. At any rate the birds in Barclay Sound had no patch at the end of March. The only remaining conjecture is that one may be the young of the other; and this I find is Dr. Suckley's idea, who appears to have remarked both kinds at Cape Disappointment. To this I object that I do not know of the patchless bird having been noticed in California, and I am very certain that I saw none with a patch about Vancouver Island. As to their frequenting Cape Disappointment, that would only prove that to be the boundary line of their respective habitats. I am aware that it is dangerous work to build speculations as I am doing, on a single specimen; but I shall do my best to find out where the northern bird breeds, and to obtain a sitting bird with its eggs; and then should the differences be equally marked at that period, if there is any such thing as species, the two birds must, I think, be pronounced distinct."

[Jan.